

REMARKS

Claims 1-35 were pending in the application. Claims 2-21 and 26-35 have been cancelled. Claims 1 and 22-25 have been amended. Claims 36-44 are newly submitted. The specification has been amended to correct minor informalities. No new matter has been added. Claims 1, 22-25, and 36-44 are now pending in the application. Reconsideration is respectfully requested in view of the amendments to the claims and the following remarks.

I. Claim Objections

Claims 9 and 19 were objected to based on informalities due to an error in labeling of character identifiers. Applicant has amended the claims to remove all labels.

II. The § 102/103 Rejections

Claims 1-11, 22-24, 26-28, and 35 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by US 2004/0181601 to Sakthikumar (“Sakt”).

Claims 12-21 and 29-34 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,334,148 to Sandstrom (“Sandstrom”) in view of Sakt.

Applicant respectfully traverses the rejections.

Claim 1, as amended, recites a method for providing simultaneous access between a storage drive and a plurality of blade servers. In particular, the method includes configuring the plurality of blade servers to simultaneously connect with the storage drive, in which the plurality of blade servers is managed by a management system and the storage drive is coupled to the management system. The method further includes each blade server of the plurality of blade servers simultaneously routing data packets between the management system and the blade server, and the management system managing simultaneous access of the plurality of blade servers to the storage drive, including routing the data packets received from the plurality of

blade servers to the storage drive.

A. Sakt Fails To Disclose a Management System Managing Simultaneous Access of a Plurality of Blade Servers to a Storage Drive

Referring to FIG. 1, Sakt discloses a system 10 including a routing device 20 that permits client devices 30, 35 to share a peripheral device 40 that is coupled to the routing device 20. In operation, a routing device receives a request from a first client (e.g., client device 30) to access a peripheral device (e.g., peripheral device 40) during a time at which the peripheral device is being accessed by a second client (e.g., client device 35). In response to receiving the request from a first client, the routing device tri-states a device signal between the second client and the peripheral device to permit the first client to have access to the peripheral device (see paragraphs 0017-0018).

While Sakt discloses a routing device that permits clients to share a peripheral device, Sakt fails to disclose management system that manages simultaneous access of a plurality of blade servers to a storage device (emphasis added). Instead, as discussed above, Sakt discloses tri-stating a device signal between a second client in order to permit a first client to have access to a peripheral device. Tri-stating a device signal between the second client and the peripheral device involves disconnecting the second client from the peripheral device. Because Sakt discloses tri-stating the device signal, Sakt therefore cannot disclose managing simultaneous access of a plurality of blade servers to a storage device, as in Sakt's system only one client is accessing a peripheral device at any given time – i.e., there is no simultaneous access of a peripheral device as required by the claims.

Applicant respectfully submits, therefore, that claim 1, and the claims that depend therefrom, are allowable over Sakt.

B. Other Independent Claims

Claims 22 and 40 each incorporates limitations similar to those of claim 1. Claims 22 and 40 (and the claims that depend therefrom) are also allowable over Sakt for reasons corresponding to those set forth with respect to claim 1.

Applicant submits that claims 1, 22-25, and 36-44 are allowable over the references cited above, and are in condition for allowance. Should any unresolved issues remain, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned at the telephone number indicated below.

Respectfully submitted,

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